



# County Reports Dead Birds With WNV

A Cooper's hawk reported dead on July 4, 2004 tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). This was the first positive finding of WNV in San Diego County this year. On July 29<sup>th</sup> four more dead birds reported positive: 2 American crows, a House finch and a sparrow. These birds were found in the Carlsbad, Fallbrook, Escondido, Vista and Rancho Peñasquitos areas of San Diego County.

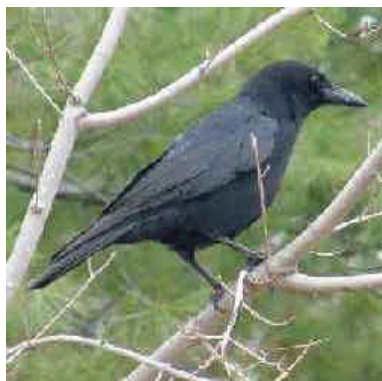
Dead birds are one of the early warning signs that West Nile virus is in the area. With the help of County residents who report dead birds they see on their property, in their neighborhood, or at their workplace, the Vector Control Program can monitor the spread of West Nile virus.

West Nile virus is mainly a bird disease. When mosquitoes feed on infected birds they can become infected and spread the virus to other animals, including humans. West Nile virus does not affect all birds the same way. Some birds can survive with the virus and continue spreading it. Other birds, such as those in the Corvid and Raptor families are especially susceptible to the virus and often do not survive. The County is currently only testing Corvids including crows, ravens and jays and Raptors including hawks, owls and falcons.



Cooper's Hawk

## Dead Bird Reporting Criteria



1. The bird must be dead for less than 24 hours. After 24 hours, the virus may not be detectable.
2. The bird should not have a foul odor.
3. The bird should not be covered with ants or flies.
4. The bird should not be stiff.
5. The bird should not be damaged by predators or cars.

If you find a dead bird that meets all the above reporting criteria, please report it to the **County's Vector Control Program at (888) 551-INFO (4636)**. Vector Control Staff will determine if the bird should be tested, and will pick it up for testing. There is no risk of getting the West Nile virus from touching a dead bird, but for your protection, do not handle the bird.

**Thank you for supporting Vector Control's efforts to "Fight the Bite"**